

Neoleria, Mall. *N. inscripta*, Mg., is definitely associated with carrion and may easily be trapped by hanging up a dead bird or a meat bone. *N. ruficauda*, Ztt., is recorded by Collin from carrion, but I have chiefly taken it, and also *N. ruficeps*, Ztt., on fungi.

Oecothea, Hal. *O. praecox* I took in numbers on 25.7.35 just inside the entrance to rabbits' burrows on the sandy "morfa" between Criccieth and Borth-y-gest, Carnarvonshire, and again in similar circumstances at Talybont, Merionethshire on 24.7.37.

Ecoptomera, Lw. *E. microps* I have bred in numbers on several occasions from moles' nests, the flies emerging February to May. One male of *E. pallescens*, Mg., taken near Oswestry, 16.6.33.

Scoliocentra, Lw.:—*S. amplicornis*, Cz. I have not bred this species, but have taken the male at the entrance to a rabbit burrow and the female on a manure heap. *S. villosa*, Mg. One female taken in woods on 6.3.38. All in Shropshire.

Leria, R.-D. *L. brachypterna*, Lw. Bred in some numbers from rooks' nests near Oswestry, June 1937. Mr Collin also records it from nests of owls and crows (1939: 79 *E.M.M.*, 148). *L. modesta*, Mg., var. *czernyi*, Collart, one pair, and *L. dupliciseta*, Stein., one male, both in April. All in Shropshire.

Morpholeria Garrett: *M. ruficornis* Mg. Montgomeryshire, September.

TRICHOSCELINAE.

Trichoscelis, Cz. *T. obscurella*, Fln. Fairly common in June on sandy "morfas" at Criccieth and Talybont, North Wales. *T. frontalis*, Fln. One male bred from thrush's nest, Oswestry, emerging 27.4.35.

NEWS ON LYSANDRA OF THE CORIDON GROUP OF SPECIES (LEP. LYCAENIDAE).

By ORAZIO QUERCI.

Vindicio. Formia (Prov. Latina). Italy.

The object of this paper is to indicate in a correct manner the places where we collected some *Lysandra* of the *coridon*, Poda, group of species, recording when they emerged, the feature and climate of the surroundings in which they lived, and to whom those butterflies were sent.

Italy.—We have taken many *coridon*, always in summer and on chalky grounds, in any locality of the Apennines of Central Italy (Sibyllini, Gran Sasso, Sirente, Majella, Meta) where we collected. Rarely we met with that species above 5000 ft. We have also found plenty of them on Apuane Alps, above Caregine, on the slopes of Mt. Sumbra, 3000 ft. (Garfagnana); in the Fegana valley, below Montefegatesi, 1500 ft. (Lucca); on Mt. Pratifiorito, 5000 ft. (Lucca); on Mt. Fanna at 2000 ft. near Fiesole (Florence); on Mt. Conca, 1200 ft., near Fontebuona (Florence); and above the locality Le Sterpete near Foligno (Umbria).

The other allied species, that looks like Herrich-Schäffer's figure of *hispana*, was taken by us only at Pian di Mugnone, 400 ft. (Florence) and on Mt. Fanna where both *coridon* and *hispana* were flying together

in August 1915. *L. hispana* emerge in the Spring and, after a pause, also in summer.

Large series of those butterflies were sent to British entomologists (Lord Rothschild, Mr Bethune-Baker, Mr Pether, Mr Turner, and others). Many specimens were shipped to America (Mr Williams of Philadelphia, Pa., Mr Weeks of Boston, Mass., Mr Mengel of Reading, Pa., Mr Winn of Montreal, Canada). Other specimens were sent to Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Hungary. Dr Verity of Florence has the largest set of *Lysandra* taken by us in Italy.

The specimens that Verity refers to *Lysandra syriaca*, Tutt, and that he figures at Pl. 16, nos. 56-58, in his grand work, "Le Farfalle Diurne d'Italia," 1943, Florence, were taken by us near the small group of trees, just above, 4300 ft., the upper buildings of Casteldelmonte (Aquila) in Gran Sasso mass, above the path towards Mt. Capodiserra, at the beginning of July 1939. Another male (55) and one female (59) were taken by my wife on Colle Alto, 3600 ft., above Settefrati (Latium) in Mt. Meta mass, in summer 1940.

The specimens that Verity figures (Pl. 16, nos. 47, 48) with the name of *polonus* Zeller, which might be hybrids between *Lysandra coridon* and *bellargus*, were taken by myself on Mt. Sumbra (Garfagnana), 4000 ft., at mid-June 1920. Another *polonus* (49) was found by my wife, by the end of June 1941, along the path, 4300 ft., in front of Rocca-dimezzo (Aquila), which climbs to Fontana delle Macchie, below Mt. Monterotondo, in Sirente mass.

The striking specimen, figured by Verity with the name *glauca-gester* (Pl. 15, no. 26), which according to that author might be a hybrid between *argester*, Bgstr. = *hylas*, Esp. and *syriaca*, Tutt, was taken by Lycaena Romei, my granddaughter, on 28th July 1939, at the same place above Casteldelmonte where in June a few *syriaca* were flying. All the strange *Lysandra*, that I have recorded now, are in Verity's collection.

Spain.—In 1924 we collected on Sierra de Albarracin in Aragon. Both in June and at the beginning of July the whitish *Lysandra*, similar to Herrich-Schäffer's figure of *albicans* emerged in the valley Valdevear, 3300 ft., about two miles from Albarracin towards Teruel. My wife, with our daughter Erida, took many of them, among which we noted a few specimens looking like Herrich-Schäffer's figure of *hispana*. While *albicans* ceased to be on the wing in mid-July, a few *hispana* were taken by us until September.

In July, Dr Enzo Romei and I made some trips to the high mountain towards Orihuela del Tremedal above Albarracin. In a field near Tramacastilla, 3600 ft., we took some *coridon* that were flying together with some *albicans*. Those two species might be distinguished at first glance: *albicans* on the wing looked as white as a *Pieris*, *coridon* was shining metallic blue. In alpine surroundings we did not see any *coridon*-like butterfly.

At the beginning of August we went by a car to that mountain. My granddaughter, now Dr Lycaena Romei, but then only two years old, was with us. She played with a net in a meadow, at about 4000 ft., above the village of Noguera (between Tramacastilla and Orihuela), and thus she took, by a chance, a magnificent blue female of the species that Zapater, Korb, Sagarra and I named by mistake *corydonius*, H.-S.,

that Verity named *caelestissima*, but which now he refers to *caucasica*, Lederer. Having discovered the small locality, where those nice *Lysandra* live, we took many of them.

Afterwards, Dr Romei went and collected at Puerto de Pajares, about 4000 ft., on Cantabrian Mts. (Asturias), taking a series of bright blue *Lysandra* that both Sagarra (*Bull. Inst. catal. Hist. nat.*, (2), 9: 202, 1924) and I referred at first to *caelestissima*, Verty. (that is *caucasica*, Led.). We were misled by the big number of blue females (resembling that taken at Noguera) among the *Lysandra* of Pajares. Now, I believe that they are nothing else than *coridon* modified in tinge by the great humidity of that ground, where it had always rained until mid-August.

In 1925 and 1929 we collected in Catalonia. *Lysandra hispana* were plentiful at S. Pere de Vilamajor and Llinas, 1800 ft., at the base of Mt. Montseny near Barcelona. They emerged, like near Florence, both in the Spring, and after a pause, in August-September. On Mt. Montseny, 3300 ft., and on Catalan Pyrenees (Puigmal and Taga) we found only the single-brooded *coridon* in August.

At the beginning of June 1926 my wife and I, together with Prof. Bolivar of Madrid, and again at mid-June 1933, with Mr René Oberthur of Rennes, took many *albicans* in the gypseous and bare moor of Montarco, 2000 ft., near Madrid. They were smaller and still whiter than those from Aragon. We have never collected in summer near Madrid, however the entomologists of that city told us that the *albicans* of Montarco emerge there only by the end of the spring, and no specimen of that kind had ever been taken later.

On 10th June 1926 we went and collected at Ugna: (in Spanish maps it is written "Uña" with a "cedilla" on "n") on Serrania de Cuenca, 3600 ft., in New Castile, where we remained until the frost. That season was very dry as it never rained from April to October. Many *albicans* (like those from Albarracin, Tramacastilla and Montarco) emerged from mid-June to mid-July in a meadow of Rincon de la Laguna, 3600 ft., in front of the village of Ugna, on the opposite side of the lake. Some *coridon* emerged later, always at Rincon de la Laguna, along the path that rises to El Escaleron on the way to Tragacete. *Lysandra caucasica*, widespread all over Rincon del Juez, on the way to Ciudad Incandata, was on the wing in August. In 1928, and again in 1933, we remained at Ugna from May to the end of October. In those years it rained almost always in the afternoon and the emergence of *albicans* was delayed by the cold weather that continued until the beginning of June. *Lysandra albicans*, *coridon* and *caucasica* emerged at the same time, but in three different places, near Ugna, from mid-July to the beginning of September.

Besides the Lepidopterist, to whom I had sent the Italian specimens, those taken in Spain were also sent to Mr Hemming of London, and Mr René Oberthur of Rennes. Large collections were also deposited in the museums of Natural History of Barcelona, Lisbon and Madrid. However, the greater number and the most interesting specimens should now have been assembled in the British Museum both at London and Tring.

While living at Barcelona from November 1923 to October 1929 I wrote some notes, concerning the Rhopalocera of the Iberian Peninsula

that were printed in "Treballs del Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona," 1932, vol. xiv. I also made some tables, showing the sequence of broods for the 126 species of Diurnal Lepidoptera taken by us at Ugna in 1928, but I made the mistake to record by figures only the set specimens, which were before my eyes, not considering many others that had remained in paper, and not remembering the large number of those which, of course, we were unable to take in the field. From those extensive tables, I am now copying the data for the *Lysandra* of the *coridon* group and a few other species, recording in a general manner the probable frequency in the field of recently emerged specimens. I do this in order to show that, in spite of the altitude of about 4000 ft., the butterfly emerges at Ugna from early May to the end of October as it occurs in most lowlands of Southern Europe. *The country around Ugna is not an alpine locality.* It is a beautiful valley sheltered from winds by high mountain covered with beech and pine woods and *there the Lepidoptera emerge quite in the same manner as at Pian di Mugnone, 400 ft., near Florence, and in the neighbourhood of Barcelona.*

GYMNETRON MELAS, BOHEMAN, IN SCHOENHERR [GEN. ET SPEC. CURCULIONIDUM 4 1246 (1838)], A WEEVIL NEW TO THE BRITISH LIST.

By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., etc.

3. *G. Melus*, Schh.

"*Ellipticus, subdepressus, niger, cinereo-pubescentis, antennis brevibus concoloribus, rostro lineari, modice arcuato; thorace latiore punctulato; elytris amplis, profunde punctato-striatis; femoribus obsolete dentatis. Patria: Gallia ad Paris. Ex Musaeo Dom. Aubé ad describendum amice missus.*

Statura *Gymnetron stimulosi*, nonnihil tamen major, magis depressus, thorace latiore, colore antennarum elytrorumque alio, ab illo distinctus. Caput breve, latum, supra modice convexum, punctulatum, nigrum, parce cinereo-pubescentis; oculi laterales, ovati, modice prominuli, nigro-brunaei; rostrum vix longitudine thoracis, lineare, minus tenue, modice arcuatum, punctulatum, nigrum, nitidum. Antennae vix longitudine capitis cum rostro, crassiusculae, nigrae, clava magna, ovata, sub-obtusa, cinereo-pubescente. Thorax brevis, transversus, antice augustior, apice truncatus et juxta apicem striga transversa impressus, lateribus versus basin sensim ampliatus, basi sub-rotundatus, supra paulo convexus, confertim punctulatus, niger, pube depressa, cinerea, sat dense obsitus, scutellum parvum, rotundatum, nigrum, cinereo-pubescentis. Elytra antiae conjunctim leviter emarginata, thoracis basi latiora, humeris fere rectangulatis, antrorsum nonnihil prominulis; lateribus non ampliata, apice conjunctim obtuse rotundata, thorace triplo longiora, supra minus convexa, sat profunde punctato-striata, interstitiis sub-convexis; tota nigra, pilis rigidis, cinereis, sub-seriatis, adspersa. Corpus subtus punctulatum, nigrum, parce cinereo-pubescentis. Pedes mediocres, nigri, cinereo-pubescentes; femoribus modice clavatis, subtus dente obsolete armatis; tibiis teretibus, rectis.—Bhn."